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3885-Delta Council

Mosquito and Vector Control
Association of California

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June 24, 2010

Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council
650 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Best Management Practices for mosquito control

Dear Mr. Isenberg,

Thank you for meeting with David Brown, John Stroh and me to discuss implementation of mosquito control best management practices (BMPs) on lands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (the Delta). As we discussed, there are four (4) mosquito control districts in the Delta's five counties that are governed and operated pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Section 2000 *et seq* (<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>). The mosquito control districts perform their mission of public health mosquito and vector control on all private and public lands on behalf of the residents and visitors of their respective areas. A program of integrated pest management is used in conjunction with the California Department of Public Health's Mosquito-borne Virus Surveillance and Response Plan (the plan; <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/resources.php>) to reduce mosquito populations and virus activity to the lowest level practical.

An important element of the Plan is the implementation of appropriate mosquito control best management practices (BMPs). The State's mosquito control districts, in coordination and cooperation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the University of California (UC), and various other state and local agencies developed the document "BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL ON CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS" (http://www.westnile.ca.gov/downloads.php?download_id=996&filename=CDPH_BMP_MosquitoControl6-08.pdf). This document serves as the base policy for BMP implementation by the mosquito control districts serving the Delta.

Following are examples where mosquito control BMPs has been successfully implemented to reduce mosquito development on properties in the Delta:

Isenberg Crane Preserve (a.k.a. Woodbridge Ecological Reserve)

The Isenberg Crane Preserve (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/er/region3/woodbridge.html>) is owned and operated by the CDFG, and is located on Brack Tract, San Joaquin County in the Primary Zone of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The property is managed for Sandhill cranes and other wildlife. The site is generally flooded for waterfowl habitat in early September and maintained through late winter/early spring. Prior to and during flooding, CDFG and the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District (SJC MVCD; www.sjmosquito.org) implement appropriate BMPs for managed wetlands, including land preparation (i.e., discing, mowing), infrastructure maintenance (ditch and drain vegetation control), managed water flow (water introduced to intended site only), introduction of mosquitofish, and limited applications of biorational pesticides (larvicides).

Staten Island/The Nature Conservancy (a.k.a. Cosumnes River Preserve)

Staten Island/The Nature Conservancy (TNC; http://www.cosumnes.org/about_crp/index.html) is owned by The Nature Conservancy and is located on Staten Island, San Joaquin County in the Primary Zone of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The property is managed for production agriculture and wildlife habitat. Portions of the site are generally flooded for waterfowl habitat in early September and maintained through late winter/early spring. Prior to and during flooding, TNC and SJCMVCD implement appropriate BMPs for managed wetlands, including land preparation (i.e., discing, mowing), infrastructure maintenance (ditch and drain vegetation control), managed water flow (water introduced to intended site only), introduction of mosquitofish, and limited applications of biorational pesticides (larvicides).

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region3/yolo/>) is owned and operated by CDFG, and is located in the southern portion of the Yolo Bypass, Yolo County in the Primary Zone of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The property consists of agricultural lands, permanent and seasonal wetlands, and one freshwater tidal wetland. The wildlife area is maintained primarily as a flood control conveyance of the Sacramento River but is generally managed for waterfowl habitat and public viewing throughout the year. Seasonal flooding occurs in early September and is maintained through late winter/early spring. CDFG and the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD; www.fightthebite.com) implemented BMPs for managed wetlands including routine wetland maintenance (discing, herbicide applications, mowing and grazing), and the introduction of mosquitofish. Of particular note is that CDFG participated in SYMVCD's Delayed Fall Flooding Program to minimize mosquito production while maintaining an adequate level of fall water habitat.

Generations Hunting Club

The Generations Hunting Club is a privately owned and managed property located on Tyler Island, Sacramento County in the Primary Zone of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The property is generally flooded in early fall and maintained through late winter/early spring for waterfowl habitat with one permanent brood pond. A rotational permanent pond schedule with new BMPs was implemented (burning, discing, chemical weed control, deep flooding, and mowing of dead vegetation) to more effectively manage dense vegetation in and around brood ponds. Mosquitofish were introduced early in the season to permanently flooded ponds, reducing chemical applications. Flooding of seasonal ponds were delayed as part of SYMVCD's Delayed Fall Flooding Program with additional implementation of BMPs for managed wetlands including vegetation control (mowing dead vegetation before new intended plant growth emerged, discing a mosaic pattern and controlling water primrose).

These examples are just a small fraction of the number of sites where California's mosquito control agencies have worked cooperatively with public and private land owners to successfully implement mosquito control BMPs with respect to intended land use and the environment.

We look forward to our continued relationship with the Delta Stewardship Council to collaboratively address issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



Catherine Smith
Executive Director